

SENATE RESOLUTION 239—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF DR. ANDREI DMITRIEVICH SAKHAROV

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.:

S. RES. 239

Whereas 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Andrei Dmitrievich Sakharov (referred to in this preamble as “Dr. Sakharov”), who was born on May 21, 1921;

Whereas, although the work of Dr. Sakharov as a nuclear physicist earned him international respect and renown, his great genius and gift to history was to give voice to a global yearning for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Whereas, in 1968, in an act of great courage and conscience, Dr. Sakharov published his treatise, “Thoughts On Progress, Peaceful Coexistence, And Intellectual Freedom”, in which he—

(1) offered a comprehensive vision for peace and progress;

(2) broke with the Soviet establishment over human rights; and

(3) opened himself up to years of official and state-sponsored retaliation;

Whereas, in 1970, Dr. Sakharov helped found the Committee on Human Rights in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (referred to in this preamble as the “USSR”), which documented human rights abuses in the USSR;

Whereas the advocacy of Dr. Sakharov for human rights at home and abroad was grounded in, and emerged from, his work for peace and against nuclear weapons proliferation;

Whereas, in his 1975 Nobel Prize acceptance speech, delivered by his wife Yelena Bonner because the USSR had barred him from attending the ceremony, Dr. Sakharov expressed his “hope in a final victory of the principles of peace and human rights” and the “liberation of all prisoners of conscience everywhere”;

Whereas the Nobel Peace Prize Committee called Dr. Sakharov “the spokesman for the conscience of mankind”;

Whereas the Government of the USSR exiled Dr. Sakharov and Yelena Bonner to the “closed city” of Gorky (now Nizhny Novgorod, Russia) in retaliation for the advocacy of Dr. Sakharov against the USSR invasion of Afghanistan, which he later called “a war of annihilation, a terrible sin”;

Whereas President Reagan proclaimed May 21, 1983, as National Andrei Sakharov Day, an occasion for the people of the United States to “reaffirm that, despite attempts at repression, the ideals of peace and freedom will endure and ultimately triumph”;

Whereas Mikhail Gorbachev released Dr. Sakharov and Yelena Bonner from exile in December 1986, one of the most significant steps in implementing a loosening of political controls under perestroika and glasnost;

Whereas, in 1989, Dr. Sakharov became a deputy of the Congress of People Deputies, the first legislative body in the USSR that permitted debate, which used the moral authority of Dr. Sakharov to try to democratize Soviet political processes, including an end to 1-party rule;

Whereas the courageous efforts of Dr. Sakharov against totalitarian repression in the USSR inspired political reforms that swept Europe throughout 1989;

Whereas, on his death in 1989, the White House noted that the voice of Dr. Sakharov “was an important dimension in the contemporary changes under way in Soviet soci-

ety”, changes that would culminate 2 years later in the collapse of the USSR and Soviet Communism; and

Whereas the work Dr. Sakharov began remains unfinished, which is evidenced by the May 18, 2021, cancellation by authorities of the Moscow Sakharov Center’s exhibit marking the centenary of the life of Dr. Sakharov: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historical significance of the contributions made by Dr. Andrei Dmitrievich Sakharov (referred to in this resolution as “Dr. Sakharov”) in the promotion of human dignity and political freedom in his own country and around the world;

(2) recognizes that the example set by Dr. Sakharov has inspired millions around the world working to promote democratic principles; and

(3) expresses support for democracy and human rights activists around the world, especially in Russia, who embody the principles and values practiced by Dr. Sakharov.

SENATE RESOLUTION 240—AFFIRMING THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY, INCLUSIVE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND IMPROVED LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, PARTICULARLY FOR GIRLS, IN THE POOREST COUNTRIES THROUGH THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 240

Whereas access to quality education reduces poverty, advances economic prosperity, improves peace and security, and strengthens public health;

Whereas the United Nations reported that 1,600,000,000 learners in more than 190 countries were affected by the closure of educational institutions at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas prior to the COVID crisis, the 2020 Global Education Monitoring Report, an annual accountability tool on the status of education internationally, found that an estimated 258,000,000 children and adolescents are out of school worldwide, with girls and children with disabilities more likely to be out of school in most of the developing world;

Whereas a 2019 UNICEF Report found that only one in every five children in low-income countries has access to preprimary education;

Whereas a 2019 World Bank Report found that more than half of all children in low- and middle-income countries cannot read a simple story by age 10;

Whereas a 2020 UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report found that children and adolescents with a sensory, physical, or intellectual disability are two and a half times more likely to have never been in school than their peers without disabilities;

Whereas a 2018 UNICEF Report found that one in three children and adolescents are out of school in countries affected by conflict or disaster;

Whereas a 2020 UNHCR Report found that almost half of school-age refugee children are out of school and, of the refugee children who do start primary school, less than half make it to secondary school;

Whereas a 2018 World Bank Report found that 12 years of quality education for every

girl would boost economies by as much as \$30 trillion in increased lifetime earnings and that each year of secondary education for girls reduces the likelihood of marriage before the age of 18 by five percentage points or more;

Whereas the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) was founded in 2002 as the only public-private global partnership exclusively dedicated to education in the world’s poorest countries;

Whereas GPE-eligible countries are home to more than 1,000,000,000 children and adolescents, which represent 82 percent of out-of-school children;

Whereas GPE focuses on improving education at a systems level, aligning partners behind each government’s education sector plan, to leverage the profound transformations required to deliver at least one year of preschool and 12 years of quality education for every child;

Whereas GPE works in the countries with the greatest need, targets the hardest to reach children, and can respond quickly to emergencies;

Whereas educational continuity helps partners keep their education systems functioning through wars, displacement crises, climate disasters and health emergencies, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas GPE is a proven and effective aid delivery mechanism that complements the United States Government’s bilateral basic education programs by fostering coordination among all key partners, supporting the development and implementation of strong national education sector plans, and building on the commitment of developing country governments to expand quality educational opportunities for children in an equitable manner;

Whereas the United States is among the leading supporters of GPE, is represented on the GPE Board of Directors, and currently serves the critical role of Coordinating Agent in eight GPE partner countries;

Whereas United States Government Strategy on Basic Education, Fiscal Years 2019 through 2023, resolves to leverage GPE to advance its goal of achieving a world where education systems in partner countries enable all individuals to acquire the education and skills needed to be productive members of society;

Whereas GPE is working with Education Cannot Wait, at global and country level, to develop optimized approaches to advance UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 and provide inclusive and equitable quality education for all, especially the most marginalized children in crisis situations;

Whereas primary enrollment for girls has increased by 65 percent and almost three-quarters of partner countries have achieved gender parity in school completion;

Whereas in 40 percent of partner countries, GPE’s partnership supports one or more activities relating to children with disabilities;

Whereas GPE is the largest provider of education grants in the global COVID-19 response, mobilizing over \$500,000,000 to ensure continued learning, school reopenings, and recovery;

Whereas GPE support incentivized governments to save more than \$6,000,000,000 through more efficient education spending, freeing up more funds to invest in education for the most marginalized;

Whereas more than 60 percent of GPE’s spending is in countries affected by conflict or fragility, and GPE helped these countries to increase their primary school completion rates from 58 percent in 2002 to 68 percent in 2018;

Whereas GPE’s 5-year strategic plan calls for leveraging and further developing innovative finance mechanisms to get every child

learning, and extends a strong commitment to gender equality and inclusion across all workings of the partnership, including a new funding window that will raise an additional \$250,000,000 for girls' education; and

Whereas with support from donors, GPE will enable 175,000,000 primary-age children to learn, reach 140,000,000 students with professionally trained teachers, get 88,000,000 more children in school, more than half of them girls, and save \$16,000,000,000 through more efficient spending: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms the leadership and commitment of the United States Government to improving access to quality, inclusive public education and improved learning outcomes for the poorest and most marginalized children and adolescents worldwide, which promotes global stability, economic prosperity, and poverty elimination;

(2) supports the vision, mission, and goals of GPE 2025 to appropriately mobilize partnerships and investments that transform education systems in developing countries, leaving no one behind;

(3) recognizes that United States Government investments in bilateral basic education are complemented by GPE's education systems-level approach and partnership building;

(4) calls on the United States to engage in multiyear pledges to allow GPE to maximize its impact in supporting governments to provide quality, inclusive public education to children around the world and to leverage contributions from other countries and donors; and

(5) calls on the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to commit to promoting children and adolescents attending school and learning throughout the world in accordance with the 2021 to 2025 GPE strategic period.

SENATE RESOLUTION 241—WIDENING THREATS TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND FREE EXPRESSION AROUND THE WORLD, AND REAFFIRMING THE VITAL ROLE THAT A FREE AND INDEPENDENT PRESS PLAYS IN INFORMING LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCES ABOUT PUBLIC HEALTH CRISES, COUNTERING MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION, AND FURTHERING DISCOURSE AND DEBATE TO ADVANCE HEALTHY DEMOCRACIES IN COMMEMORATION OF WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY ON MAY 3, 2021

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.:

S. RES. 241

Whereas, Thomas Jefferson, who championed the necessity of a free press for a thriving democratic society, wisely declared, "Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost.";

Whereas Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in Paris on December 10, 1948, states, "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes free-

dom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.";

Whereas, in 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the third day of May of each year to be "World Press Freedom Day"—

(1) to celebrate the fundamental principles of freedom of the press;

(2) to evaluate freedom of the press around the world;

(3) to defend the media against attacks on its independence; and

(4) to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives while working in their profession;

Whereas the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-166) expanded the examination of the freedom of the press around the world in the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices published by the Department of State;

Whereas, on December 18, 2013, and December 18, 2019, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 68/163 and Resolution 74/157, respectively, on the safety of journalists and the problem of impunity, unequivocally condemning all attacks on, and violence against, journalists and media workers, including torture, extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, and intimidation and harassment in conflict and nonconflict situations;

Whereas the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and various State constitutions protect freedom of the press in the United States;

Whereas the United States Government has used the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328) to place targeted visa and economic restrictions on individuals, including for their roles in the targeted killings of journalists;

Whereas, in an effort to combat attacks against journalists, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken recently announced a new policy allowing the Department of State to impose visa restrictions on individuals who, acting on behalf of a foreign government, are believed to have been directly engaged in serious, extraterritorial counter-dissident activities, including those that suppress, harass, surveil, threaten, or harm journalists, activists, or other persons perceived to be dissidents for their work;

Whereas the 2021 World Press Freedom Index, compiled by Reporters Without Borders, warns that the COVID-19 pandemic "illustrates the negative factors threatening the right to reliable information" and amplifies the many crises that threaten media freedom and pluralism;

Whereas the Freedom in the World 2021 report, published by Freedom House, noted that 2020 was an especially hazardous year for democracy, during which "less than 20 percent of the world's population [then lived] in a Free country, the smallest proportion since 1995";

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists—

(1) at least 30 journalists were killed in 2020, 21 of whom were singled out in retaliation for their work, an increase from 10 murders in 2019;

(2) Mexico, Afghanistan, and the Philippines had the most retaliatory killings in 2020;

(3) at least 274 journalists were behind bars in relation to their work on December 1, 2020, marking the fifth consecutive year that at least 250 journalists were imprisoned globally;

(4) China, Turkey, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia were responsible for nearly half of all jailed journalists worldwide;

(5) journalists around the world have been targeted by sophisticated spyware products that pose a severe risk to their safety and the safety of their sources; and

(6) the world's most censored countries include Eritrea, North Korea, Turkmenistan, Saudi Arabia, China, Vietnam, Iran, Equatorial Guinea, Belarus, and Cuba;

Whereas the Government of China has unleashed an onslaught of attacks on press freedom in China and Hong Kong, including through—

(1) state-sponsored censorship and disinformation campaigns limiting access to information about the novel coronavirus, including through its censorship of virus-related keywords on social media platforms;

(2) attacks on press freedom in Hong Kong, including the passage of the National Security Law, which poses an existential threat to the city's tradition of press freedom, and the arrest and subsequent conviction of Jimmy Lai, owner of Hong Kong's largest media outlet, *Apple Daily*, and an outspoken democracy advocate;

(3) arrests or other repressive actions against independent journalists and others in mainland China attempting to share uncensored news or opinion about the COVID-19 outbreak, including the detention of citizen journalist Chen Qiushi, who remains incommunicado; and

(4) the detention of journalists critical of the Government of China, including Chen Jieren, who was sentenced to 15 years in 2020, following 2 years of incommunicado detention, after blogging about allegations of corrupt local officials;

Whereas Afghanistan remains one of the most dangerous countries for journalists, with—

(1) militant groups targeting at least 4 journalists for murder in retaliation for their work in 2020; and

(2) at least 4 media workers killed in early 2021;

Whereas Belarus has witnessed sweeping attacks against the press since Alexander Lukashenka's fraudulent election in August 2020, where since the beginning of 2020, nearly 550 journalists and media workers have been harassed, assaulted, imprisoned, or otherwise retaliated against for their work, including—

(1) Katsiaryna Barysevich, a physician, and Artsiom Sarokin, a journalist, who were respectively charged with 6 months and 2 years in a penal colony (on charges of disclosing medical data and instigating a crime, respectively) for disclosing information about a protestor who was killed during a crackdown on demonstrations against President Lukashenka;

(2) Katerina Borisevich, a journalist charged with 6 months in prison after contradicting official statements about the cause of death of a protester; and

(3) Katsiaryna Andreyeva and Daria Chultsova, journalists sentenced to 2 years in prison (on charges of violating public order) for filming live coverage of the violent dispersal of a protest against President Lukashenka;

Whereas Reporters Without Borders asserts that "press freedom in [Burma] has been set back ten years in ten days" after the February 2021 military coup, during which—

(1) at least 40 journalists were arrested, including BBC journalist Aung Thura and Associated Press journalist Thein Zaw;

(2) media workers were forced into hiding and confronted censorship, harassment, internet blocks, beatings, interrogations, threats, and injuries at the hands of the military; and

(3) multiple independent media outlets had to cease operations or close altogether or had their licenses revoked by the military;